

WMEA Online Teaching Project

Our New Reality: Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), teachers are being asked to transition from in-person to online learning environments. This includes PK-12 teachers and university professors alike. Few of us are trained for - and many of us feel overwhelmed by - what we are about to undertake. Further, we don't know for certain how long this new paradigm is going to last. Per the mandate announced by Governor Evers, Wisconsin schools will move to online learning environments from March 18 through April 6 (as of this moment), and many Wisconsin colleges are implementing plans for at least two weeks of online learning. I don't think anyone would be shocked if this timetable were to be extended in the weeks ahead.

Proposal: Rather than act on islands, with all of us inventing our own path from the ground up, let's work together to generate shareable plans and resources to use in our classrooms.

- **Who:** This initiative would include partnerships between PK-12 teachers in the field as well as teachers in training at colleges/universities across the state.
- **What:** Participants would develop a two-week, self-contained teaching unit, including (a) a brief unit overview, (b) lesson planning ideas, (c) ideas and resources/materials to carry out the plans, (d) ideas and resources/materials to assess student work, and (e) a timeline regarding how planned activities could play out across a two-week interval.
- **How:** Using a Google Form (see below), participating teachers would sign up to create a two-week unit plan for use in their classrooms AND to share with others. To the extent possible, participants would be asked to share editable materials (e.g., a word processing file, rather than a PDF) so that teachers across the state could download and edit/customize as needed. Please note that a summary spreadsheet (see below) will allow potential participants to see what is already being created - including any requests for additional collaborators. Upon submission, materials will be made available via a shared Google Drive folder (see below). Materials will be organized based on the categories below, allowing teachers to easily search for appropriate ideas and resources.
 - **Artistic Processes** - WMEA Music Standards categories, including (a) Creating, (b) Performing, (c) Responding, and (d) Connecting
 - **Grade Level** - grade level categories, including (a) Elementary, based on grade level and (b) Secondary, based Levels of Proficiency (per the WMEA Music Standards)
- **When:** This project will start immediately, with the goal of having as many plans as possible created and shared by Wednesday, March 18 (aligning with the mandated school closing date enacted by Governor Evers). That said, we anticipate additional plans and ideas being added in the weeks ahead, especially if our online timeline is extended.
- **Why:** The bottom line is that we are all in this together - public schools and colleges alike. This initiative would allow us to pool our ideas and resources - and create

carefully-developed and meaningful plans and resources, rather than scramble individually to invent online teaching/learning plans and resources from the ground up. Further, creating two-week, self-contained units will allow us to generate ideas and resources that could be implemented as needed in the weeks ahead - especially if the online timetable is expanded beyond April 6. Let's use this as an opportunity to learn and grow - together.

To Get Involved: WMEA has set up infrastructure to bring this plan to fruition, as summarized below and made available via this [Project Overview and Submission Ideas](#) folder.

- [Video Summary](#) - this video provides summary information about the project, including ideas about how to use the shared planning template (below)
- [Planning Template](#) - this downloadable Word Doc can be used for creating shared unit plans; please note that you are welcome to use other formats, should you so desire
- [Projects Underway](#) - this summary Google Sheet auto-populates upon completion of the Sign-Up Form (below); it contains a summary of unit plans in development AND provides an opportunity for teachers to sign up as a collaborator on existing projects (as needed)
- [Sign-Up Form](#) - this Google form will serve as the sign-up mechanism for teachers who would like to submit unit plans for this project
- [Google Drive Folder](#) - this folder will house lesson plans and materials shared by participants

NEW MATERIALS - If you would like to contribute new unit plans to this project, fill out the Sign-Up Form (above), then send all materials to: distancelearning@wsmamusic.org (please attach all files to a single email, if possible). Once files have been received, they will be added to the Google Drive Folder (above) for sharing with teachers across the state.

COLLABORATOR - If you would like to serve as a collaborator for an existing project, please add your name to the [Projects Underway](#) spreadsheet and email the initial author directly.

Keep in Mind: This collaborative endeavor will require flexibility and resolve, as we seek to move forward in a positive and productive manner. In this regard:

- The ideas/plans and resources being shared will NOT be perfect - but that would be true whether we collaborate or work independently. Thank you for being supportive of all efforts.
- Our schools are not in the same place regarding curriculum, student needs, availability of resources, etc. Yet, if we work together - and if we share editable resources (to the extent possible), we can help one another - and our students - thrive in new and exciting ways.
- The grade levels and/or levels of proficiency assigned to plans will serve as starting points - not mandates. Teachers can (and should) use - and customize - the shared plans that most closely align with the needs of students within their teaching/learning settings.
- Shared materials are the work of individual teachers, rather than that of WMEA. If you have any concerns regarding unit plans, please contact us at distancelearning@wsmamusic.org.

In closing, thank you for all that you do for students of all age levels. We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate - and thrive - in spite of the unprecedented and fluid situation we now face. Together, we CAN accomplish great things. Let's do this!

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*This project is part of the new **WMEA-WSMA Distance Learning Platform***